



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of Indiana

10 West Market Street  
Suite 2100  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3048

(317)226-6333  
TDD (317)226-5438

FAX NUMBERS:  
Criminal (317)226-6125  
Administration (317)226-5176  
Civil (317)226-5027  
FLU (317)226-6133  
OCDETF (317)226-5953

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Gino J. Agnello  
Clerk, United States Court of Appeals  
for the Seventh Circuit  
219 S. Dearborn Street  
Suite 2722  
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: *United States v. Thomas Walker*,  
No. 05-1812  
Supplemental Authority

Dear Mr. Agnello:

Oral argument was held in this case on October 24, 2005.

This letter is submitted pursuant to Rule 28(j), Fed. R. App. P.

This letter relates to the argument set forth at page 19, second paragraph of Appellee United States of America's brief that the notice requirement in Rule 32(h), Fed. R. Crim. P., does not apply to post-*Booker* variances. The government withdraws its argument. Undersigned counsel has recently been made aware that the argument is contrary to Department of Justice policy. That policy provides that although Rule 32(h) does not literally apply to the district court's discretion to sentence defendants post-*Booker*, due process concerns may still require a district court to provide notice and opportunity to be heard on any contemplated departure or imposition of a non-Guideline sentence.

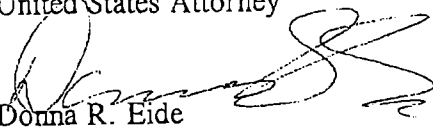
The government asserts, nonetheless, that the error in this case was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant did not dispute the facts presented by the government at sentencing upon which the court relied to increase the sentence, the facts relied on related to the crimes to which the defendant pleaded guilty, and the defendant had notice of the statutory maximum sentence that could be imposed in the case.

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I certify that the body of this letter has 222 words.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN W. BROOKS  
United States Attorney

By:   
Donna R. Eide  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Criminal Appellate Counsel

c: Mr. James McKinley  
Counsel for Defendant-Appellant Walker  
Indiana Federal Community Defenders  
111 Monument Circle  
Suite 752  
Indianapolis, IN 46204